

**STATE OF NEW YORK DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE**

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LAWRENCE G. MALONE  
General Counsel

JOHN C. CRARY  
Secretary

March 3, 1998

Hon. Magalie Roman Galas  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

RE: In The Matter Of Federal State Joint  
Order On Universal Service -- CC Docket No.  
96-45; Forward-Looking Mechanisms For High  
Cost Support -- CC Docket No. 97-160

Dear Secretary Galas:

In the Universal Service Report and Order released May 8, 1997, the Commission authorized state commissions to submit state specific forward-looking cost studies to determine federal universal service support for non-rural local exchange carriers. Federal State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45, Report and Order, FCC 97-157, para. 248. Many states, including New York, have proceedings pending in which forward-looking cost models are being developed. Recognizing the importance and complexity of the various proceedings designed to develop forward looking cost mechanisms, the Commission previously extended the date for filing state-specific cost models from February 6, 1998 to April 24, 1998.

The National Association of Regulatory Commissioners (NARUC) has filed a petition for further extension of time to file cost models in the above-captioned proceeding. The New York Department of Public Service supports NARUC's request and urges

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the Commission to extend the time for filing the forward-looking cost models from April 24, 1998 to 90 days after the Commission issues the data input for its chosen model.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lawrence G. Malone".

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